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10 an absorbent core disposed between the liner and the outer  
 cover, at least a portion of said absorbent core extending  
 within the front half of said article, said portion of the  
 absorbent core having a surface area which is less than or  
 equal to about 50% of the surface area of the front half of  
 15 said article.

*16  
Cont*  
 9 ~~100~~ <sup>101</sup>. A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim  
 98 herein said article is a diaper.

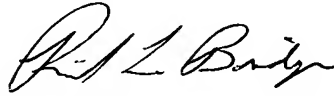
9 ~~101~~ <sup>102</sup>. A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim  
 98, wherein the surface area defined by said portion of the  
 absorbent core is less than or equal to about 40% of the  
 surface area of the front half of said article.

9 ~~102~~ <sup>103</sup>. A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim  
 98 wherein the surface area defined by said portion of the  
 absorbent core is less than or equal to about 30% of the  
 surface area of the front half of said article.

#### REMARKS

Claims 1-68 are canceled and claims 69-102 are added  
 herein. Claims 66-102 will be pending upon entry of this  
 amendment. No new matter is believed to be introduced by this  
 amendment. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the  
 changes to be made to the application by this amendment and is  
 entitled "Version With Markings To Show Changes Made."

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. L. Bridge".

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**Version With Markings To Show Changes Made**

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 35, second paragraph:

For example, the back one-half portion of the surface area of the chassis 2 is determined by multiplying the second chassis length 73 [X] times the function of the first chassis width 77 and the second chassis width 79; and the back one-half portion of the surface area of the absorbent core 3 is determined by multiplying the second absorbent core length 83 [X] times the function of the second absorbent core width 87 and the intermediate absorbent core width 89.

Page 35, third paragraph:

In addition, the front one-half portion of the surface area of the chassis 2 is determined by multiplying the difference between the first chassis length 71 [-] and the second chassis length 73 [X] times the function of the second chassis width 79 and the first chassis width 77 of the chassis 2; and the front one-half portion of the surface area of the absorbent core 3 is determined by multiplying the difference between the first absorbent core length 81 [-] and the second absorbent core length 83 [X] times the function of the first absorbent core width 85 and the intermediate absorbent core width 89 of the absorbent core 3.

Page 35, fourth paragraph:

Further, the entire surface area of the chassis 2 is determined by multiplying the first chassis length 71 [X] times the function of the second chassis width 79 and the first chassis width 77; and the entire surface area of the absorbent

core 3 is determined by multiplying the first absorbent core length 81 [X] times a function of the first absorbent core width 85, the second absorbent core width 87 and the intermediate absorbent core width 89.

Page 37, last paragraph:

Specifically, where the ratio of the surface area 35 of the back one-half portion 105 of the absorbent core 3 to the corresponding surface area 45 of the back one-half portion 101 of the stretchable chassis 2 is [at] 29%, the chassis has a mean strain of 13.1% at 500[m]g, a mean strain of 27.5% at 1000[m]g, and a mean strain of 37.8% at 1400[m]g. Where t[T]he ratio of the surface area 35 of the back one-half portion 105 of the absorbent core 3 to the corresponding surface area 45 of the stretchable back one-half portion 101 of the chassis 2 is [at] 16%, the chassis has a mean strain of 17.0% at 500[m]g, a mean strain of 33.3% at 1000[m]g, and a mean strain of 41.8% at 1400[m]g. Where t[T]he ratio of the surface area 35 of the back one-half portion 105 of the absorbent core 3 to the surface area 45 of the stretchable back one-half portion 101 of the chassis 2 is [at] 0%, the chassis has a mean strain of 21.8% at 500[m]g, a mean strain of 40.4% at 1000[m]g, and a mean strain of 47.7% at 1400[m]g.

Page 38, first paragraph:

The above test results are derived from a diaper 1 wherein the absorbent core 3 is affixed to the chassis 2. The above test results indicate that as the percent ratio of the surface area 35 of the back one-half portion 105 of the absorbent core 3 to the corresponding surface area 45 of the back one-half portion 101 of the stretchable chassis 2 decreases, the

stretchability of the chassis 2 increases. For example, the mean percentage strains at 500[m]g, at 1000[m]g, and at 1400[m]g significantly increase when the ratio of the surface area 35 of the back one-half portion 105 of the absorbent core 3 to the corresponding surface area 45 of the stretchable back one-half portion 101 of the chassis 2 is at 16% than when at 29%. Accordingly, a reduction in the size of the absorbent core 3 increases the corresponding surface area 45 in the back one-half portion 101 of the stretchable chassis 2 that is uninhibited by the attachment points of the absorbent core 3 allowing enhanced stretchability of the stretchable chassis 2 therein reducing the cost and complexity of manufacturing the diaper 1 of the present invention and improving the appearance, fit and leakage containment for the wearer.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1-68 are canceled.

Claims 69-102 are added.